

ABC What?!?!

Military Terms & Acronyms

The military is full of acronyms and terms! They can simplify conversation and also confuse newcomers to the military and outsiders alike.

Listed below are some common acronyms and terms used in the military. Remember if you are unsure of what an acronym or a term means —ASK! Even seasoned military personnel ask for clarification, as acronyms and terms are continually being created.

A—Alpha

AAFES: Army & Air Force Exchange Service
ACCOMPANIED TOUR: Tour of duty with family members
ACS: Army Community Service
ACU: Army Combat Uniform
ACTIVE ARMY: On active duty
AD: Active Duty
ADSC: Active Duty Service Commitment
ADVANCED PAY: Payment before [duty performed] actually earned
AER: Army Emergency Relief
AFAP: Army Family Action Plan
AFTB: Army Family Team Building
AG: Adjutant General
AGR: Active Guard and Reserves
AIT: Advanced Individual Training
AKO: Army Knowledge Online
ALERT: Emergency call to be ready

ALLOTMENT: Designated payment by Guardsman to bank or individual
ALLOWANCE: Pay & special compensation
APF: Appropriated Funds
APFT: Army Physical Fitness Test
AR: Army Regulation
ARC: American Red Cross
ARNG: Army National Guard
ARNGUS: Army National Guard of the United States
ASAP: As Soon As Possible
ASVAB: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
AT: Annual Training / Annual Tour
ATRRS: Army Training Requirement and Resources System
AWOL: Absent Without Leave

B—Bravo

BAH: Basic Allowance for Housing
BARRACKS/BILLETTS: Place where a Guardsman lives
BAS: Basic Allowance for Subsistence
BCT: Basic Combat Training
BDE: Brigade

BENEFITS: Medical, dental, commissary, etc
BN: Battalion
BNCOC: Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course
BOQ: Bachelor Officer Quarters
BX: Base Exchange

C—Charlie

CADRE: Leadership at training level
CDR: Commander
CDS: Child Development Services
CE: Civil Engineer
CG: Commanding General
CGSC: Command & General Staff College
CHAIN OF COMMAND: Leadership structure
CHAIN OF CONCERN: An informal self-help channel for family members and soldiers
CHAPLAIN: Military minister, priest, rabbi, or pastor
CID: Criminal Investigation Division
CINC: (sink) Commander-in-Chief
CLEARING: Obtaining official release from post/base

CLEP: College Level Examination Program
CO/Co: Commanding Officer/Company
COB: Close of Business
CODE OF CONDUCT: Rules by which a Guardsman must live
COLA: Cost of Living Allowance
COLORS: National and unit/organization flags
COMMISSARY: Grocery store for military
CONUS: Continental United States
COURT-MARTIAL: Trial system within the Army/Air Force
CPO: Civilian Personnel Office
CS/C of S: Chief of Staff
CY: Calendar year

D—Delta

DA: Department of Army
DANTES: Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support
DAYROOM: Recreation area in Guardsman lodging
DCSPER: Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel
DECA: Defense Commissary Agency
DEERS: Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.
DEPLOYMENT: Guardsman sent on a mission without family members
DEROS: Date of Estimated Return from Overseas
DETAIL: A job or assignment
DFAS: Defense Finance & Accounting Service
DI: Drill Instructor
DIC: Dependency & Indemnity Compensation
DINING IN: Formal social gathering for Guardsmen only
DINING OUT: Formal social gathering of Guardsmen with spouses/significant other

DIRECT DEPOSIT: Guardsman's guaranteed check to bank
DISCHARGE: Departure from active duty
DLA: Dislocation Allowance
DO: Duty Officer
DOB: Date of Birth
DOD: Department of Defense
DOGTAGS: Identification tags
DOR: Date of Rank
DOS: Date of Separation
DPP: Deferred Payment Plan
DRESS BLUES: Informal attire with four-in-hand tie/formal attire with bow tie
DRESS MESS: Formal attire; short jacket equivalent to "white tie and tails"
DSN: Defense Switch Network (worldwide telephone system)
DUTY ASSIGNMENT: Job/place while on active duty
DZ: Drop Zone

E—Echo

EEO: Equal Employment Opportunity
EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program
EM: Enlisted Member
EN: Enlisted

ESC: Enlisted Spouses Club
ESPRIT DE CORPS: Morale within unit or organization
ETS: Expiration of Term of Service

F—Foxtrot

FAC: Family Assistance Center
FAMILY ADVOCACY: Program that assists with child and spouse abuse problems
FCP: Family Care Plan
FIELD GRADE: Majors, lieutenant colonels, and colonels
FLO: Family Liaison Office
FM: Field Manual
FMEAP: Family Member Employment Assistance Program

FORMATION: Gathering of Guardsmen in a prescribed way
FORSCOM: Forces Command
FPC: Family Program Coordinator
FRG: Family Readiness Group
FRO: Family Readiness Officer
FROCK: Assume next higher grade without pay
FRUIT SALAD: Ribbons and medals worn on uniform
FY: Fiscal Year

G—Golf

GARRISON: Post or community
GEAR: Equipment used by Guardsmen
GED: General Education Diploma
GI BILL: Education entitlement
GI PARTY: Clean up duty
GMAT: Graduate Management Admissions Test
GO: General Officer
GOV: Government Owned Vehicle

GRADE: Corresponds to pay level of Guardsman (E-3, O-2, etc.)
GRE: Graduate Record Examination
GS: General Schedule (Government civilian employee pay grades)
GUEST HOUSE: Temporary living quarters
GUIDON: Unit identification flag

H—Hotel

HARDSHIP TOUR: Unaccompanied tour of duty
HASH MARKS: Stripes for enlisted members' time in service
HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY: Extra pay for duty in hostile area
HHC: Headquarters and Headquarters Company

HOR: Home of Record
HOUSING OFFICE: Where Guardsmen check in for housing
HQ: Headquarters
HQDA: Headquarters, Department of the Army
HS: Home Station

I—India

IADT: Initial Active Duty Training
ID Card: Identification card
IET: Initial Entry Training
IG: Inspector General

INSIGNIA: Indicates branch of Guardsmen
IRR: Individual Ready Reserve
ITO: Invitational Travel Order

J—Juliet

JAG: Judge Advocate General
JODY CALL: Troop cadence for marching or running
JR EN: Junior Grade Enlisted Personnel

JR NCO: Junior Grade Noncommissioned Officer (ES, EG)
JUNGLE BOOTS: Special boots for tropical climates

K—Kilo

K-9: Dogs trained for military police service
KLICK: Slang for kilometer
KP: Kitchen Patrol

L—Lima

LEAVE: Approved time away from duty
LES: Leave and Earnings Statement
LOGISTICS: Equipment and support needed for performance

M—Mike

MACOM: Major Army Command	MOTOR POOL: Area where official vehicles are kept
MAP: Military Assistance Program	MP: Military police
MCFP: Military community Family Policy	MPF: Military Personnel Flight
MEDIVAC: Medical evacuation	MPRJ: Military Personnel Records Jacket (201 File)
METL: Mission Essential Task List	MRE: Meals Ready to Eat
MGIB: Montgomery GI Bill	MSS: Mission Support Squadron
MIA: Missing in Action	MUSARC: Major U.S. Army Reserve Command
MOAA: Military Officers' Association of America	MUTA: Multiple Unit Training Assembly
MOI: Memorandum of Instruction	MWR: Morale Welfare and Recreation
MOS: Military Occupational Specialty	

N—November

NA: Not Applicable	NCOIC: Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge
NAF: Non-Appropriated Funds (generally located)	NET: Not Earlier Than
NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization	NGB: National Guard Bureau
NCO: Non-Commissioned Officer	NGR: National Guard Regulation
NCOA: Noncommissioned Officers Association	NLT: Not Later Than
NCOER: Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report	NTE: The Praxis Series (Professional Assessment for beginning teachers)

O—Oscar

OBC: Officer Basic Course	OPSEC: Operations Security
OCONUS: Outside Continental United States	ORDERLY ROOM: Company office
OCS: Officer Candidate School	ORDERS: Spoken or written instructions to Guardsman
OIC: Officer in Charge	OSC: Officers' Spouses' Club
OER: Officer Evaluation Report	OTS: Officer Training School
OJT: On the Job Training	

P—Papa

PAC: Personnel Administration Center
PAM: Pamphlet
PAO: Public Affairs Officer
PCS: Permanent Change of Station
PEBD: Pay entry basic date
PERSCOM: Total Army Personnel Command
PLATOON: Several squads within a company
PM: Provost Marshal (police chief)
PME: Professional Military Education
POA: Power of Attorney

POC: Point of Contact
POI: Program of Instruction
POLICE CALL: Clean up
POST EXCHANGE: Army department store
POV: Privately Owned Vehicle
POA: Power of Attorney
PROTOCOL: Customs and courtesies
PRP: Personal Reliability Program
PT: Physical Training
PX: Post Exchange

Q—Quebec

QTRS: Quarters (living area)

R—Romeo

R&R: Rest and Recreation
RA: Regular Army
RANK: Official title of Guardsman
RC: Reserve Component
RD: Rear Detachment
RDC: Rear Detachment Commander
RDF: Rapid Deployment Force
REFRAD: Release From Active Duty
REG: Regulation
REGT: Regiment
RETREAT: Bugle/flag ceremony at end of day
RE-UP: Reenlist

REVEILLE: Bugle call/ceremony at beginning of day
RFO: Request For Orders
RHIP: Rank Has its (pick one: Privileges, Pain, Price, Paperwork)
RIF: Reduction in Force
RNLTD: Report No Later Than Date
ROSTER: List of members
ROTC: Reserve Officer Training Corps
RPO: Regional Processing Office
RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES: Musical honor for general officers and equivalent ranking officials

S—Sierra

SAT: Scholastic Assessment Test
SATO: (say-toe) Scheduled Airlines Ticket Office
SBP: Survivor's Benefit Plan
SD: Staff Duty
SDNC: Staff Duty Noncommissioned Officer
SDO: Staff Duty Officer
SEA: Senior Enlisted Advisor
SECFOR: Security Force
SEPARATION PAY: Pay for unaccompanied duty
SF: Security Forces
SFG(A): Special Forces Group (Airborne)
SFPD: State Family Program Director
SGLI: Serviceman's Group Life Insurance
SHORT TIMER: Person with short time left to serve on active duty
SHORT TOUR: Unaccompanied tour

SICK CALL: Specific block of time for medical attention
SIDPERS: Standard Installation/Division Personnel System
SOCOM: Special Operations Command
SOF: Special Operations Forces
SOP: Standard Operating Procedures
SORTIE: Name of a flight
SPACE A: Space available
SPONSOR: Person who is salaried by the Government
SQD: Squad, a unit within a platoon
SQL: skill qualification identifiers
SRB: Selective Reenlistment Bonus
STARC: State Area Command
SUBSISTENCE: Food allowance
SURE PAY: Guardsman's guaranteed check to bank

T—Tango

TA: Tuition Assistance
TAG: The Adjutant General
TAPS: Last bugle call of the day
TDA: Tables of Distribution and Allowances
TDY: Temporary Duty

TMO: Traffic Management Office
TOE: Table(s) of Organization and Equipment
TRADOC: Training and Doctrine Command
TSP: Troop Support Packages

U—Uniform

UCMJ: Uniform Code of Military Justice
UIC: Unit Identification Code
UMT: Unit Ministry Teams
USAR: U.S. Army Reserve
USASFC: United States Army Special Forces Command

USASOC: United States Army Special Operations Command
USC: United States Code
USO: United Service Organization
USWOA: US Army Warrant Officers Association
UTA: Unit Training Assembly

V—Victor

VA: Department of Veterans Affairs (formerly Veterans Administration)
VEAP: Veterans Educational Assistance Program
VOQ: Visiting Officers Quarter

W—Whiskey

WO: Warrant Officer
WOBC: Warrant Officer Basic Course
WOCS: Warrant Officer Candidate School

X—X-ray

XO: Executive Officer

Y—Yankee

YS: Youth Services

Z—Zulu

That's all folks!